

PER BOYE HANSEN

Artistic Director of the National Theatre Opera and the State Opera

opera

Autumn with Musica non grata

The autumn with the Musica non grata cycle has a great deal to offer: two premieres, one of a revue operetta *Ball im Savoy*, the other of a fairy-tale opera *Schwanda, the Bagpiper*, followed by the return of *Verlobung im Traum* (Betrothal in a Dream) to the State Opera, and last three reruns of the surrealist *Flammen* (Flames). It brings the work of the king of jazz operetta, Paul Abraham and Czech-German “undesirable” composers such as Jaromír Weinberger, Hans Krása and Erwin Schulhoff back into the spotlight.

16 and 18 September at the State Opera are to mark the premiere of the revue operetta *Ball im Savoy* by Hungarian composer **Paul Abraham**. It became one of the biggest European operetta hits of the 1930s and has been made into six film adaptations, being a brilliant blend of singing, fiction and effective dancing acts. “*Ball im Savoy is a ticket to a world of wonderful music swarming with hits that will instantly get under your skin,*” explains Abraham’s work conductor and composer **Jan Kučera** who was entrusted the musical preparation. “*What is so spellbinding about the operetta is its multi-genre format – a combination of big, almost musical-like acts, opera and genuinely demanding drama theatre, which asks for sort of a light, Wildean styling,*” says about the operetta Slovak director **Martin Čičvák** who is staging the *Ball im Savoy* at the State Opera. The operetta is going to be in Czech language with one of numerous reruns scheduled for New Year’s Eve as a part of a popular Ball in the Opera.

Whereas the National Theatre historic building is in full swing with the preparations underway for the premiere of a fairy-tale opera *Schwanda, the Bagpiper* by Jaromír Weinberger, conceived and designed as a family show by director **Vladimír Morávek**. “*I’d love to have the National Theatre embrace children again, as it was common in the 1930s,*” he says. The opera was world premiered in the National Theatre in 1927 and by 1935 it saw stagings at what is the present Wiener Staatsoper, Royal Opera House in London, Metropolitan Opera in New York and last but not least at Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires. “*This performance is just for anyone who dares to face the devil or sing for a queen to make her smile and stop her from constantly beheading princes or married musicians,*” commented with a touch of fairy-tale spirit Vladimír Morávek when asked what audience his directing concept targeted. The tale of Schwanda with his magical bagpipes, Dorotka, Babinsky, the bandit, a cursed queen and hell, which has a fitting subtitle: “*The Devil has lost, and repents*”, is to premiere on 6 and 9 October under the musical direction by **Zbyněk Müller**. It is designed for children audiences aged 8+ and followed with creative workshops.

The November State Opera programme features the return of the surrealist opera *Flammen* by Erwin Schulhoff, directed by **Calixto Bieito** and conducted by **Jiří Rožeň**, with performances on 17 and 26 November. The opera has also been listed in the programme of the international Janáček Brno Festival (the Janáček’s Theatre in Brno, 20 November). The very same day, on 20 November and on the premises of its world premiere in 1933, the State Opera is to present the opera *Verlobung im Traum* by Hans Krása directed by **Jiří Nekvasil** and conducted by **Marek Šedivý**, a co-produced project of Musica non grata, the National Theatre and the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre in Ostrava.

The Musica non grata project is co-financed by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Prague. It was launched in 2020 to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the WWII and is primarily focused on paying tribute to male and female composers who were persecuted by the Nazis, some consequently lost their lives and some were forced into exile. The project highlights the Czech-German cultural cooperation and recognizes the common cultural heritage in Europe. **Andreas Künne**, the German Ambassador adds: *"In my role of Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany it is crucial not to discuss and view Shoah in its intangible entirety which is, as such, hard to fathom, but on the contrary, to remind us of fates of particular individuals who fell victim to it and to teach through their work the young generation about the consequences of antisemitism, xenophobia and every other type of discrimination that still exist among us, and to show how vital it is to curb any such tendency before it gets too late. Apart from achieving this objective, Musica non grata displays to the fullest extent how rich and developed the Central European cultural platform was in the 1920s and 1930s, regardless of the mother tongue, be it Czech or German. It presents Central Europe as a region of cultural and national togetherness. Thus, I am not far from calling the project a godsend: through music and concert stages it brings these ideas back to life and stirs up interest in this cultural region."*

For more information on the autumn season of Musica non grata go to musicanongrata.cz, to the FB group Musica non grata and to the National Theatre platforms. The project is financially supported by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in the Czech Republic.

Photogallery:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MUHYXNRH_xQLfpFFiveP_CFOxs032jxS?usp=sharing

Contact press Musica non grata

Iva Nevoralová
PR & marketing Musica non grata
+420 608 028 054
i.nevoralova@narodni-divadlo.cz

Contact press National Theatre

Kateřina Motlová
PR & Marketing of the National Theatre Opera and the State Opera
Tel: +420 725 712 443
E: k.motlova@narodni-divadlo.cz

Tomáš Staněk

Public Relations of the National Theatre
Tel: +420 605 207 249
E: t.stanek@narodni-divadlo.cz

Social networks

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/musicanongrata>
facebook.com/ndopera
instagram.com/narodnidivadlo_opera

...and yet it still resounds!

musicanongrata.cz





GENERAL PARTNER

OFFICIAL PAYMENT CARD



PARTNERS OF THE NATIONAL THEATRE



ŠKODA



V E R M O N T

PARTNERS OF PRODUCTIONS



PARTNER OF PREMIERES



BENEFACTORS OF THE NATIONAL THEATRE



KOLOWRAT  KRAKOWŠTÍ

Prof. Dr. Dadjá Altenburg-Kohl

GENERAL MEDIA PARTNER
OF THE NATIONAL THEATRE



PRINCIPAL MEDIA PARTNER
OF PRODUCTIONS

mediální skupina **mafra**

PRINCIPAL MEDIA PARTNER

